

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EB-08 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 FEA-01 ACDA-10 IO-13 L-03 NSC-05 NRC-07
OES-06 DODE-00 ERDA-07 STR-04 PM-04 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2384
AMEMBASSY ATHENS

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 1986

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, SY, EAID

1. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT NUCLEAR MEDICINE CENTER AT DAMASCUS MOUWASSAT HOSPITAL (TEACHING HOSPITAL FOR UNIVERSITY OF DAMASCUS) IS INTERESTED IN BUYING A SMALL NUCLEAR REACTOR, OR "MINI-CYCLOTRON" TO PRODUCE RADIOCHEMICALS AND ISOTOPES FOR USE IN MEDICAL TREATMENT. SUCH MATERIAL IS NOW IMPORTED FROM THE U.K. ACCORDING TO MR. AMINI, DIRECTOR OF THE NUCLEAR MEDICAL FACILITY. SUCH A REACTOR -- WHICH COULD COST ABOUT ONE MILLION US DOLLARS -- IS A NECESSARY UNIT OF 250-BED NUCLEAR MEDICINE CENTER NEARING COMPLETION ADJACENT TO MOUWASSAT HOSPITAL. ACCORDING TO DR. AMINI, PURCHASE OF SUCH A REACTOR IS STILL IN "DISCUSSION STAGE" BUT CENTER IS ANXIOUS TO CORRESPOND WITH OVERSEAS SUPPLIERS.

2. EMBASSY EARLIER HEARD OF THIS POSSIBLE TRADE OPPORTUNITY FROM DIRECTOR OF LOCAL PHILIPS SUBSIDIARY, PHILIPS MOYEN ORIENT (DIRECTOR IS DUTCH CITIZEN). PHILIPS AND SIEMENS COOPERATE IN SYRIA ON MEDICAL PROJECTS AND EQUIPMENT SALES; PHILIPS/SIEMENS HAS ALREADY SUPPLIED DM TWO MILLION WORTH OF UNCLASSIFIED

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EQUIPMENT TO NUCLEAR MEDICAL CENTER. ACCORDING TO PHILIPS DIRECTOR, SIEMENS' SUBSIDIARY INTERATOM (MUNICH) IS VERY INTERESTED IN PROJECT. INTERATOM, HE SAYS, IS LICENSEE OF US FIRM GENERAL ATOMIC (SAN DIEGO), WHICH WOULD HAVE A GOOD SHOT AT CONTRACT IF SYRIA DESIRES AN AMERICAN SUPPLIER. IF EITHER GERMAN OR AMERICAN FIRM WINS CONTRACT, PHILIPS MOYEN ORIENT BELIEVES IT IS WELL-

PLACED TO PROVIDE ANCILLARY EQUIPMENT. PHILIPS DIRECTOR SAID HE MET IN MUNICH SEVEN WEEKS AGO WITH GENERAL ATOMIC OFFICIALS, WHO ASSURED HIM THEY HAD "GREEN LIGHT FROM WASHINGTON" TO EXPORT SUCH A REACTOR TO SYRIA.

3. NUCLEAR REACTORS ARE NOT RPT NOT ELIGIBLE FOR AID FINANCING. THEREFORE, USAID/DAMASCUS WILL NOT CONSIDER ANY REQUESTS FOR FUNDING. SARG DID INFORMALLY DISCUSS IN JUNE 1976 POSSIBLE USAID SUPPLYING OF AN AMERICAN RADIO-THERAPIST FOR TECHNICAL ADVICE AND TRAINING OF LOCAL DOCTORS AT THE CENTER, BUT NOTHING HAS COME OF THIS. WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT COMPLICATIONS MIGHT ARISE OVER AN EXPORT LICENSE FOR SUCH A REACTOR FOR SYRIA, ALTHOUGH WE ARE AWARE OF THE OBVIOUS SENSITIVITIES. BUT AT THIS EARLY STAGE, EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE CONTACTS BETWEEN AMINI AND POTENTIAL US SUPPLIERS (AMINI, PARENTHETICALLY, IS FRENCH-TRAINED). WE REQUEST USDOC TO NOTIFY US FIRMS AND ASK THEM TO SEND CATALOGUES, TECHNICAL INFORMATION, AND PRICE QUOTATIONS TO DR. AMINI, DIRECTOR, NUCLEAR MEDICINE CENTER, AL-MOUWASSAT HOSPITAL, MEZZE, DAMASCUS, SYRIA. PLEASE INFORM EMBASSY WHICH US FIRMS EXPRESS INTEREST IN THE PROJECT.
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
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